

ISSUES 8-9
JANUARY 2024 &
JULY 2024



St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

LEXAVERIAN

Bi-Annual Newsletter

XAVIER LAW SCHOOL



Xavier Law School is delighted to announce the release of Issues 8-9 of its bi-annual newsletter *Lexaverian*. The School has witnessed remarkable growth and a vibrant array of activities throughout this academic period. The highlight of our achievements was the successful organization of IGNITAC'23, the inaugural Ignatius National Trial and Advocacy Competition, which marked West Bengal's first national-level trial and advocacy competition, attracting participation from premier law institutions across India. Additionally, Xavier Society of Law and Justice conducted both editions of Xavier Mediation Competition 2024, with the intra edition witnessing participation from over 180 students and the national edition drawing teams from institutions across the country. In keeping with the spirit of Jesuit education, the School also celebrated its 5th Foundation Day and organized significant academic exchanges on women empowerment and gender issues. Our students continue to distinguish themselves through exceptional performances at various competitions. This issue of *Lexaverian* stands as a tribute to our students and their unwavering dedication.

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE- CHANCELLOR ”



It gives me great joy to present the latest issues of *Lexaverian*, the newsletter of Xavier Law School. This publication stands as a testament to the school’s continued growth, its vibrant academic environment, and its steadfast commitment to nurturing excellence in legal education, research and advocacy.

Each page reflects the collective dedication of our faculty, students, and staff, whose efforts have made Xavier Law School a dynamic center of learning and innovation.

The past academic year has been one of commendable growth and achievement. The successful organization of IGNITAC’23 — the inaugural Ignatius National Trial and Advocacy Competition — marked a milestone as West Bengal’s first national-level trial and advocacy event. Equally commendable were both editions of Xavier Mediation Competition 2024, which provided invaluable platforms for students to hone their skills in alternative dispute resolution. XavJudice’24, the intra-School moot court competition, further reinforced the school’s commitment to nurturing future litigators and scholars through experiential learning.

Our academic engagements this year have been equally enriching. The one-day National Conference on Women Empowerment for a Sustainable Future brought together eminent academicians and practitioners to deliberate on critical gender issues aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Discorsio study circle sessions, particularly those on the Russia–Ukraine conflict and gender roles in domestic spaces, fostered vibrant intellectual exchange and critical thinking among students and faculty alike.

The celebration of our Fifth Foundation Day was another moment of pride, reminding us of our collective journey in shaping an institution rooted in Jesuit values — one that promotes justice, inclusivity, and holistic education. I take this opportunity to congratulate the faculty, staff, and students of Xavier Law School for their dedication, creativity, and tireless efforts in upholding the vision and mission of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata.

As we look ahead, may Lexaverian continue to serve as a reflection of our academic vitality and a beacon of the spirit of magis — the pursuit of greater excellence in all that we do.

Best wishes!

Rev. Fr. (Dr.) John Felix Raj, SJ



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN'S DESK



It is my pleasure to present the combined 8th and 9th editions of Lexaverian, which chronicle a period of sustained academic engagement, institutional growth and collaborative learning. The initiatives and achievements reflected herein underscore the collective efforts of our faculty and students in strengthening the academic culture of Xavier Law School.

Warm regards,

Dr. Ranjeeta Mukherjee

5th FOUNDATION DAY OF XAVIER LAW SCHOOL

Xavier Law School celebrated its 5th Foundation Day on August 3, 2023, with a two-session program at Fr. Albert Huart Hall. The event was a significant gathering, bringing together students from all semesters of the B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) and B.Com.LL.B. (Hons.) programmes, faculty members and institutional leaders.

The morning session commenced with an introduction by student moderator Mr. Swarnava Hati, followed by an inaugural address by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, SJ. The Chief Guest, the Hon'ble Minister of Law, Shri Moloy Ghatak, highlighted the schemes of the State Government catering to marginalized communities. The Guest of Honour, Shri Sukumar Mondal, spoke about the initiatives of West Bengal State Legal Services Authority for the protection of women and children. A particularly impactful segment featured Shri Abhijit Kumar of the Acid Survivors & Women's Welfare Foundation and two acid attack survivors, Smt. Moyna Pramanik and Smt. Sunita Dutta, who shared their personal struggles. The session concluded with a powerful poem recitation by the survivors.

The second session, focused on the theme "Violence against Women," commencing with the opening address by Mr. Md. Saifullah Khalid. The highlight of this segment was a student poster presentation competition. The day's events concluded with a closing address by the Dean of Xavier Law School, Dr. Pratyusha Das, and a celebratory cake-cutting ceremony.



ONE-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

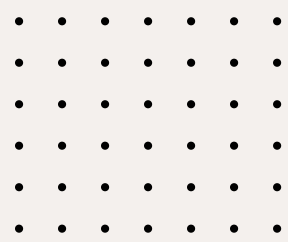


On January 11, 2024, the Research Development Cell and Xavier Law School organized a National Conference on “Women Empowerment for a Sustainable Future”. This one-day event was designed to address pertinent issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. A total of 61 participants presented papers in this conference, which included contributions from faculty members, research scholars, students and professionals from across the country.

The event featured an inaugural address by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, SJ, and a keynote address from Dr. Nirmal Kanti Chakrabarti, the Vice-Chancellor of The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata. Dr. Chakrabarti discussed various government schemes and legal initiatives for women's empowerment, including a detailed overview of the Women's Reservation Bill 2023, the emergence of Nari Adalat and significant legal cases that have helped remedy gender inequality.



2ND SESSION



DISCORISO



Xavier Law School organized the second session of Discoriso (Xavier Law School Study Circle) on September 15, 2023, featuring a panel discussion on the theme “Russia-Ukraine War and The Future of Self-Determination”.

The discussion focused on the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian military conflict, particularly the implications of Russia’s invasion as a measure to safeguard the right of self-determination of the peoples of Donetsk and Luhansk. The panel discussion featured Dr. Prashna Samaddar and Dr. Utpal Kumar Raha (Assistant Professors of Law, Xavier Law School) and four student panelists - Mr. Hribhu Gupta, Ms. Soumita Ballav and Mr. Nabendu Krishna Ghosh from B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), and Mr. Darshan Chaubey from B.Com.LL.B. (Hons.). They explored key legal questions regarding the right to secede and the conflict between territorial integrity and self-determination. The session saw active participation from both students and faculty, concluding with a vote of thanks from Mr. Ratul Das, the Convener of the session.

3RD SESSION



Xavier Law School organized the 3rd Session of Discorsio (Xavier Law School Study Circle) on March 8, 2024. The session was held in observance of International Women's Day and was aptly titled "Cooking Gender at Home."

The programme featured a film screening of the feature film *The Great Indian Kitchen*, followed by an engaging panel discussion on gender roles and their intersections with domestic spaces and societal structures.



Moderated by Mr. Ratul Das (Assistant Professor of Law and Convenor of the event), the panel comprised esteemed faculty members: Dr. Debolina Chatterjee (Assistant Professor of Sociology), Dr. Dipparna Jana (Assistant Professor of Economics), and Dr. Rajrupa Sinha Roy (Assistant Professor of Law). Their insightful deliberations highlighted critical perspectives on gender, labour and cultural expectations in the Indian context.



The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from both students and faculty members, fostering a vibrant dialogue with the panelists. The event not only deepened the understanding of gendered dynamics in everyday life but also provided a meaningful platform to commemorate International Women's Day.

QUEST LECTURES

“FUTURE FOR LEGAL ASPIRANTS: OPTIONS AND IDEAS”



On February 2, 2024, Xavier Law School organized a guest lecture on “Future for Legal Aspirants: Options and Ideas.” The session was convened by Dr. Rajdip Bhadra Chaudhuri and Dr. Asif Iqbal Shah, and attended by students of the 8th semester from the B.A.LL.B. (Hons) and B.Com.LL.B. (Hons) programmes.

Speakers for the session included esteemed advocates Mr. Partha Pratim Kanjilal and Mr. Aniket Sen from Kanjilal & Associates, along with Mr. Manas Ajai Sarkar and Mr. Shourya Basu. The lecture explored career prospects for law graduates, including litigation, judiciary, corporate sectors and academia. The learned advocates encouraged students to overcome challenges as first-generation lawyers, explore diverse legal fields and focus on skill development through internships and court practice.

A key highlight of the event was the discussion on international legal practice and the importance of academic excellence in niche areas like international law and arbitration. The speakers shared personal experiences and career insights, inspiring students to navigate the legal profession with clarity and confidence. The session was highly appreciated for its depth and practical relevance, making it a significant learning opportunity for all attendees.



Xavier Society of Law and Justice successfully hosted the inaugural IGNITAC'23 – Ignatius National Trial and Advocacy Competition 2023 from November 1-3, 2023. The event marked West Bengal's first national-level trial and advocacy competition. The competition, convened by Dr. Animesh Das with student convenors Mr. Harsh Agarwal and Mr. Mobashir Anwar from B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), was endorsed by illustrious partners including Fox & Mandal and Khaitan & Co. The event saw a strong turnout from various legal educational institutions across India.

The Preliminary Rounds were judged by esteemed legal practitioners and associates from Khaitan & Co., while the final round featured a distinguished panel including Hon'ble Justice Ashim Banerjee. Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law was adjudged the Best Team and Amity Law School, Kolkata, secured the Runner-Up position. Heritage Law College won the Best Memorial award, while participants from Xavier Law School earned the Best Speaker and Best Witness awards. Praised for its excellent organization and hospitality, IGNITAC'23 was a resounding success, providing valuable knowledge to both participants and organizers.



IGNITAC'23



XMC'24: INTRA EDITION

The Xavier Society of Law and Justice (XSLAJ) successfully organized the Second Edition of XMC'24: Xavier Mediation Competition 2024 – Intra Edition on February 23 and 24, 2024. The two-day event was convened by Dr. Animesh Das, and attracted a commendable participation of over 180 students from various semesters, showcasing the legal fraternity's enthusiasm for alternative dispute resolution.

The first day was dedicated to the Preliminary Rounds, which were meticulously organized into four slots and judged by a panel of external experts and faculty members of Xavier Law School. Following the Preliminary Rounds, 24 participants — 8 from each category of Mediator, Attorney, and Client — advanced to the Qualifier Round, which took place on the second day.



The competition concluded with an award ceremony to honor the top performers. Ms. Radhika Basu from B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) was recognized as the Best Mediator, Mr. Nabendu Krishna Ghosh from B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) was named the Best Attorney, and Agnik Chowdhury from B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) received the title of the Best Client. The success of the intra-edition, with its meticulous planning and execution, set the stage for the second national-level edition of the competition.

XAVJUDICE'24



From its very outset, the intra-School moot court competition organized by Moot Court Society, Xavier Law School, XavJudice'24, was poised to be an exceptional showcase of legal acumen and advocacy skills. The competition was held on April 26 and 27, 2024, with 11 'courtrooms' meticulously organized to replicate a real court environment. Over 200 students from all semesters of Xavier Law School participated in the Preliminary Rounds. The panel of judges comprised of faculty members of the School and over 20 invitees from among legal professionals in the city.

The flawless execution of XavJudice'24 by the students the Moot Court Society deserves special recognition. Their seamless efforts exemplified precision akin to a finely tuned mechanism, ensuring the competition's flawless execution.

The Moot Court Society extended their heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors of the event, including legal partner India Law LLP, food partners Ammi Jaan Restaurant and The Slice PB, and Dr. Abu Fazle Mohd. Shamim, Advocate. The success of the event was attributed to the relentless efforts of the students of Xavier Law School, whose participation and hard work made XavJudice'24 a grand success.



Xavier Society of Law and Justice organized the Second Edition of its national-level mediation competition, XMC'24, on April 5 and 6, 2024. The event was held in St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, in association with Khaitan & Co. and Sharma & Sharma Advocates & Legal Consultants LLP. It attracted participants from legal educational institutions across India.

The final round was judged by a panel of distinguished legal experts, including Dr. Santanu Mukherjee, Mr. Shounak Mitra (Partner, Khaitan & Co.), and Mr. Rishav Dutt (Partner, Sharma & Sharma Advocates & Legal Consultants LLP). The winners of the competition were recognized at an award ceremony where the team representing Jindal Global Law School bagged the top positions in the Best Negotiating Pair and the Best Mediator categories.



The Runner-up awards for the Best Negotiating Pair and the Best Mediator categories went to the teams from National Law School of India University, Bangalore, and Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, respectively.

All winners received cash prizes, with the champions also being offered internship opportunities at Khaitan & Co. and the runners-up at Sharma & Sharma Advocates & Legal Consultants LLP. Additionally, all winners were given a six-month subscription to EBC Readers.

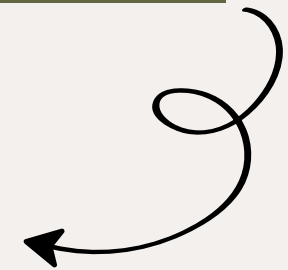


STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

DEBDEEP GIRI



Mr. Debdeep Giri, competing as a Witness, advanced to the Quarter Finals in IGNITAC'23.



Soha Kabir, competing as a Witness, advanced to the Semi Finals in XITAC'23.

SOHA KABIR



SOUMYADEEP DAS



Mr. Soumyadeep Das, competing as a Witness, finished as a Semi Finalist in XITAC'23. He published an article co-authored with Mr. Debdeep Giri titled "Need for Gender-Neutral Criminal Law in India: A Legal Pathway to Utopia or Substantive Reality?" in the edited book 'Emerging Trends in Legal Science and Innovation' published by Vidhi Aagaz.

Umang Agarwal, secured the 3rd Prize (Best Performer) in the 'Retro Vs. Latest' competition as part of Xavrang'23. He was part of the team winning the Antakshari Tramjatra 2023, organized by West Bengal Transport Corporation. Mr. Agarwal was adjudged the Best Speaker (Proposition) in Anti-Ragging Awareness Debate 2023 held in St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. He also secured the 1st Position as a performer in Open Mic Competition, organized by Mic-Drop Community.

UMANG AGARWAL



PLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Placement Committee of Xavier Law School (XLS), in collaboration with the Placement Cell of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, organized several recruitment drives for the Batch of 2019–2024. The 2024 placement season saw the participation of several reputed organizations, including:

- R. Ginodia & Co., Kolkata
- Fox & Mandal, Kolkata
- S. K. Lath & Co., Kolkata
- Rashmi Group
- Biswajit Sarkar, IP Attorneys, Kolkata

R. GINODIA & CO.
KOLKATA

**FOX &
MANDAL**
KOLKATA

S S. K. Lath & Co.
KOLKATA

R
RASHMI
GROUP

BISWAJIT SARKAR
IP ATTORNEYS
KOLKATA

These collaborations reflect Xavier Law School's growing reputation among employers for producing skilled, competent, and industry-ready graduates. A total of 11 students from the Batch of 2019–2024 secured placements with leading law firms and companies, with annual pay packages ranging between ₹2.4 lakh and ₹6 lakh.